Blackened Beaches in North Goa

2160. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact three prominent to beaches in North Goa Coastline were recently blackened;

(b) if so, what are the names thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps have been taken to clean the Coastline?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) During the month of May, 2001, there were widespread incidents of oily sediments, tar balls and other oily substances being washed to the shore all along the coastline of Goa starting from the Northern beaches of Arombol, Candolim and Sinquerim to the southern beaches of Varca and Mopor. These only substances are supposed to originate from oil spills in the sea due to tanker washings, accidents and leakages that occur in the Arabian Sea all along the route of the movement of oil tankers to and fro from the Gulf countries. Minor oil spills from fishing boasts and other vessels in and around the major port of Murmugao and other smaller ports also contribute to the problem.

(c) The State Government of Goa has on some occasions, undertaken cleaning of such beaches. It has been reported by the Goa Government that, in course of time, such oily sediments and other oily substances disappear due to biodegradation, evoporation and are also washed back to the sea.

Licensed zoos

2161. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of licensed zoos, sanctuaries and parks in the country;

(b) the nodal authority for recognizing zoos all over the country; and